

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

JUL 21 1956

CONFIDENTIAL

Control: 12042
Rec'd: July 20, 1956
6:31 p.m.

FROM: Prague

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 33, July 20, 7 p.m.

Noted by RU/1
JUL 24 1956

DEPARTMENT PASS CSUSAF FOR INFO AND CRYPTO USAF PASS CINCSA FOR INFO.

Acting Foreign Minister Sekaninova at 5 p.m. today gave me note protesting violations Czech air space.

Specific violations alleged are: March 9 at 1432 hours entering vicinity Cheb intruding far as Prague remaining over Czechoslovakia 22 minutes. May 4 in "noon hours" two violations vicinity Mariánské Lázně and Rozvadov. June 20 vicinity Cheb 906 hours 11 minutes and second 19 minutes. July 2 between 917 and 928 hours intrusion of "Eastern Slovakia". On same day at 1111 hours "especially gross violation" an aircraft stayed over Czechoslovakia 49 minutes (note does not specify area). July 9 two overflights one area Rozvadov, Pilsen and Ceske Velenice between 753 and 814 hours and another "in hours of noon when American military aircraft returning from Polish air space flew over Czechoslovak territory of Ostrava, Prerov, Tabor and Hamry into GFR".

Another "serious intrusion" lasting 43 minutes took place in noon hours July 10 (note does not specify area). "This represents systematic violation Czechoslovak air space purpose which is aerial reconnaissance", "is clear continuation espionage reconnaissance of land surface with help balloons equipped with special photographic apparatus" against which protest previously made. "Are gross contradiction with requirements international law and efforts of nations alleviate international tension and strengthen peace throughout world". Also does not help "create desirable atmosphere confidence and understanding" with respect economic negotiations. Demands US take steps against persons responsible and adopt necessary measures guaranteeing no further intrusions.

After Sekaninova read note to me said knowing measures taken by American authorities prevent overflights felt allegations utterly incredible and desired ask two questions: (1) If, as note alleged, violations occurred as long ago as last March, why nothing said until this time, and, (2) what was evidence planes were American. On first question she replied had not taken up matter until there had been increase and apparently systematic.

CONFIDENTIAL Violations

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-2- 33, July 20, 7 p.m., from Prague

Violations were not of same nature as accidental straying of planes that happened on both sides in past. With regard second question, identity of planes had been determined by "competent authorities". I pressed her hard on this question saying I knew of no way of positively identifying planes except radio contact or visual observation latter of which was only possible with plane flying any considerable altitude by visual observation markings from intercepting plane. Certainly if planes had been intercepted and thus identified one of us would have heard about it long before this. When she pleaded ignorance as to method used by "competent authorities" I said such serious allegations certainly entitled us to know what evidence was.

In reply my inquiry she indicated note would probably be released to press.

JOHNSON

RSP:ALR-14

Note: Pass Deptar for CSUSAF and CINCUSAFE 7/20/56, 9:35 p.m.,